

THE ALMA RECORD

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OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY OF ALMA, MICHIGAN

STRAWS SHOW WHICH WAY THE WIND BLOWS

It is easy to tear down a house, but it is not so easy to build it up again. It is easy to spend money, but it is not so easy to earn it. It is easy to criticize an administration, but it is not so easy to better one. It is easy to say, "Had I been in his place, I should have done so and so," when one really has no adequate idea of what being "in his place" may mean, or what "his" problems really are.

The Democratic administration, which gives place to a Republican administration on March 4, has had most unusual problems to deal with. These problems were, in large measure without precedent, problems which could not be solved in accordance with principles long laid down, because they were so entirely new, and concerned not ourselves alone, but world affairs as well. Very likely any administration, however wisely administered, must have of necessity made many mistakes and costly ones at that, in the face of so many totally new situations so suddenly thrust upon us. However, it will do no good now to speculate upon the mistakes, which have been made, other than for the purpose of avoiding similar ones.

The country has fought out its part in the war, has passed through the epidemic which usually follows such wars, has had its inevitable experience with wild extravagance, high wages, constantly soaring living costs, and is now being overrun with a great wave of crime. Just how much of all this could have been avoided or how much was a natural sequence to the great world upheaval, it is impossible to tell and useless to speculate upon.

We are constantly hearing on every side, on the street corners, on the streets, wherever two or more people meet and stop to talk, expressions such as, "Where is all this going to end? What is our country coming to? etc. But each person so interrogated shakes his or her head and is unable to answer the question. For it seems as though the world is being swept by a great resistless wave of trouble, extravagance, lawlessness, crime, and mismanagement, unprecedented in the experience of any living man and impossible to turn back until it has spent its own fury by spreading itself around the world.

But lately, however, the thinking man who reads the newspapers, intelligently, can begin to see that the wind is beginning to change and to blow from another direction, at least so far as the United States is concerned, and this same wind should have great force in combating the progress of the apparently resistless wave just spoken of.

We read in the advertisements which the business men are now running in all our papers, of a downward trend in prices of merchandise of all sorts which, while not spectacular, seems none the less steady and dependable, and guarantees a sufficient reduction in the cost of living to justify the necessary reduction in cost of production including wages, raw materials, machinery and other things. Indeed it indicates a slow but steady return to a more normal state of affairs.

We are also reading in these same papers many editorials and other articles which advocate in no uncertain terms, economy in state and national expenditures, the doing away with unnecessary boards and officials, in fact, talk of a general governmental housecleaning so much needed. A bill has been introduced into Congress recently, known as the Dillingham bill which if passed will restrict immigration to such an extent that the emigrants admitted can be handled in a more or less satisfactory way until other needed legislation can follow further investigations.

President-Elect Harding has recently appointed to the responsible position of Secretary of State, a man recognized by all as eminently fitted to the position of manager of foreign affairs, Charles E. Hughes, and has recently announced that in the future all foreign affairs shall be referred to Mr. Hughes. The Detroit Free Press in a recent editorial characterizes Mr. Hughes as "One of the great lawyers of the day, a statesman by instinct, an American and a Patriot, who has strong convictions and a steady will, who is able to see all sides of a question and base his decisions upon knowledge and reason, a man whom America can trust and Europe can understand."

If Mr. Harding follows this precedent in regard to the appointment of his other cabinet officers and the many officials necessary for the administration of the government, we may well look for great accomplishments along many lines during the next four years, for it is most imperative that men be chosen for these offices who are fitted for their work by experience and ability, not merely by the fact that they happen to be the friend of someone.

It is too early at this date to predict just what accomplishment will be made in the next four years. We only know that there is much that needs to be done and that must be done and that, soon, if we are to retain our greatness as a nation and as a people. We also know that any body of officials, no matter how efficient or how sincere, must be backed by the nation at large if they are to accomplish anything worth while.

America will be just as clean, as economical, as thrifty, as farsighted, as moral, as religious, as is the great mass of her people. And that mass of people is made up of individuals like you and like me.

The old maxim that "Straws show which way the wind blows," was never more true than now. And since that wind seems to be turning at the present time toward the direction where we may find national and individual peace and prosperity brought about through an ably organized corps of government officials working together with the mass of the people, not only for a return of normal conditions and the stabilizing of business, but also for needed reforms, and great national progress, let us all get behind the government in the same way that we supported it in the time of war, and show the world and ourselves as well that we can accomplish equally great results in time of peace.

When all is said and done, there is no escaping facts. The man or woman who early learns to recognize that things are not so because they may wish them to be so, or because they think they should be so, and to size up situations exactly as they are and then make the best of the situations as they exist, will be far ahead in the long run.

Much can be learned from the experiences of other people which will save us costly experiences of our own, if we keep an open and appraising mind and a keen eye upon those around us and read the accounts of the mistakes made by other people with the idea of eliminating similar mistakes from our own experience.

If the element of human selfishness could be eliminated from the world the millenium would suddenly dawn. Since this does not seem to be a possibility, it is up to the world to do the best it can toward controlling this undesirable element in human nature, which it would seem we shall always have with us.

Co-operation is one of the biggest words in the dictionary. Through co-operation states are made or unmade, deserts are irrigated, rivers are bridged, wars are fought, canals are dug, cities are built and other equally great achievements are brought about.

How to Live

Common Sense Comments on Health, Happiness and Longevity

By GEORGE F. BUTLER, A. M., M. D.

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MENTAL HABITS.

No one escapes trouble, so whatever may be your condition you have no monopoly in suffering. You have your compensations. Don't whine and get the complaint habit. "Make the best of things." This homely phrase is, after all, the shibboleth of life. It is the faculty of seeing some good—of drawing some inspiration from the most hidden source, that makes life endurable, that glorifies it. Life is pleasant or unpleasant, hard or easy, according to the way you look at it, the way you think of life. Thoughts govern action, and he who governs his thoughts is master of his destiny. Desiring is not about you, but within you. Hopeful, hopeful, optimistic thoughts are essential to strong minds and bodies.

Worry is one of the very bad mental habits; it injures beyond repair certain cells of the brain; and the brain being the nutrient center of the body, the other organs become gradually injured, and when some disease of these organs or a combination of them arises, death finally ensues. Thus may the habit of worrying kill. Only too often mental habits are morbid in their nature, and consequently cast a morbid influence upon the physical system over which they rule. Especially is this true when our minds are centered on the involuntary functions of the body. A man who has his mind constantly upon his digestion will soon have indigestion. Nature purposes to run her own machinery, and when we undertake to supplant it by human plans or artificial ways we destroy the natural process and disease results.

Thinking of what is eaten during or after meals is a dangerous practice, and if continued until it becomes a habit will be a greater obstacle in the way of curing any disease of the stomach than any other factor.

A person who suffers pain, and suffers his mind to revert to it constantly, establishes a nerve habit of pain, and the sense of pain grows, while the capacity to endure pain lessens. There can be no greater calamity to chronic invalids than that they get together and tell their ailments to each other. Such a course is but nursing disease and rendering it less curable. It should always be the aim to cultivate reverse habits of expression to those we feel during illness. Sickness is not the least of the opportunities in life. It is the time for reflection. It does not come by accident usually, but is the effect of a cause. Reason and reflect upon the cause rather than the effect. The break in the wrong modes of living which is present affords the best opportunity to change the bad mental habits and a start in better ways.

Many people go into society just for the purpose of telling their aches and pains and troubles. Such people should be sent to the post house and kept in quarantine until they are cured; they are as untouched by the myriad happy influences of life as the souls in by the light of a star or the flash of a comet. They say "No one is as bad off as I am." Their situation is always one that plunges at once into the condition of the liver, stomach, nerves, or some bodily ailment. Forget it! Don't get the habit of talking about sickness with every one you meet. Can't you find a topic of conversation more elevating than that of your aches and pains and troubles?

Cheerfulness is to the body what sunshine is to vegetation. Hence with a person who is in search of health, the essential thing to do is to cultivate cheerfulness, hopefulness, courage, and not allow one's self to think of his life, much less to talk about them, except to those who may find it necessary to know them in order to properly direct his life. LEARN HOW TO LIVE.

Life is the interval between one breath and another—he who only half breathes only half lives, but he who uses NATURE'S rhythm in breathing has control over every function of his being.

Many people trouble their troubles, making three out of one, by looking forward, looking on, and looking back. Troubles grow nightly, if you brood over them.

Fatigue which is not recovered from after a night's rest, is incompatible with the leading of a normal, efficient, wholesome, and happy life.

The aim of life is to produce the perfect man, so one must watch over one's integrity of mind and body.

The requirements of health are good air, good food, suitable clothing, cleanliness, and exercise and rest.

Work keeps the human being in contact with stimuli from without that are necessary to his health.

Self-distrust will destroy you; trust, surrender, abandon yourself; believe and thou shalt be healed.

The way to live long is to live wisely, and especially to be moderate in all things.

Art of Giving and Taking. In unity there is strength—but to co-operate successfully men must give and take. The art of getting along with others is to concede a point for the sake of harmony.

Paying His Debt

By CECILLE LANGDON

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Ezra Woods scowled darkly as young Alton Vorhees came up the path leading to the old-fashioned farmhouse. He was a handsome, well-bred young fellow, and under the circumstances most persons, remembering his recent affliction in the loss of a father and a fortune, would have shown some sentiment of pity and sympathy.

"Be kind and considerate to him, father," spoke Eulalie Woods in a low, but urgent tone. "He is not to blame for your loss."

"The son should share the burden," retorted Woods stormily. "With my limited means and income, two thousand dollars means something, I can tell you."

The quiet, dignified manner of the visitor, however, disarmed, or at least subdued the irritation and resentment that Ezra Woods experienced.

"I have come to tell you, Mr. Woods," he said, "that I have voluntarily assumed the debt payable to the money my father owed you. As your claim I shall consider it the more binding for me to pay. I have sold my few personal belongings and have acquired five hundred dollars. I will pay this on account, or I will use it as capital to earn the full amount."

"What do you mean by that?" inquired Woods in a puzzled but curious way.

"Give me charge of running a part of your farm for a year, let me introduce some modern methods I have learned out and I can absolutely promise the speedy extinguishment of the last vestige of the debt. Had my father prospered he would have purchased those wooded acres of yours on the river. He found the soil of a peculiar quality and remarkably adapted to an experiment he had cherished for years—the development of a Brazilian root which gives a product that can be transformed into the pure sugar known to chemistry. The limited supply of this superfine succharine product now brings over five dollars a pound in experimental laboratories. I have the details of these plans. I am thoroughly convinced that I can be made a positive success."

There was an element of the speculator in Ezra Woods, and the longer he talked with Alton Vorhees the more was he inclined to go into the scheme proposed. All the time Eulalie sat in the next room busy at some embroidery work, but she could overhear at that was said and was deeply interested.

"That old cabin on the river shore is just the home for me until I prosper," spoke Vorhees. "If you can spare a few articles of furniture and an old stove, I can fix it up superbly and suit an ideal bachelor existence."

The young man was dead in earnest in all he said and pleased Woods and evoked his profound admiration by the way he entered into his new employment. Woods allowed him to invest the five hundred dollars. Two common workers were hired and in a week the proposition was well on its way to a development of the incipient stages of planning, planting and cultivation.

Every morning for a week after breakfast had left the cabin Eulalie with her house servant visited the place not devoted an hour or two toward putting it in order. She supplied soap, but not curtain curtains, and added a rocker and other comforts and conveniences that cheered Vorhees greatly and caused him to take a friendly interest in the thoughtful practical daughter of his employer.

"Say," observed Woods one day glancing about the renovated cabin Eulalie has just about made a little shape of the old shack."

"I certainly appreciate her kindly efforts to make me something more than uncomfortable," responded Vorhees warmly.

Time passed on. Every day Eulalie and Alton saw something of one another and she gradually became a needed-for and cherished element in his life. She was of a retiring disposition, inclined to shyness in meeting Vorhees, but outspoken and enthusiastic in discussing the prospects of his success with her father.

"It figures out all right," declared Mr. Woods at the end of the season. "The plants have thriven, the refinery we have sent the plants to report excellent results, and this year's crop alone will more than pay me back the two thousand dollars."

"And then, what is Mr. Vorhees going to do?" inquired Eulalie, and with a secret interest her father could not help but discern.

"Well, daughter," replied the old man. "I had quite a talk with him today. I have offered to take him into a partnership and he has agreed. He is going to give up the cabin to his workmen and become our guest at the house. Will that suit you?"

Eulalie bowed assentingly, flushing slightly. The bonds of interest between girl and man were becoming stronger as time went on. It was about a month later that Alton came to Mr. Woods and said seriously:

"I am learning to love Eulalie more and more each passing day. Can I tell her so?"

"She probably knows it already," replied the shrewd old man. "Alton Vorhees, you have nobly redeemed your pledge to pay up that old claim. You are a man, every inch of you. There is room here for the right sort of a son-in-law—so welcome."

Gives the Old Gentleman Away. Fanny Pyell objects strongly to the way father uses the English language. His grammar is so uniformly correct as to show that he doesn't go to theaters or cabarets or any place.

Five Minute Chats on Our Presidents

By JAMES MORGAN

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THE BIG STICK

1903—February 6, Roosevelt induced Great Britain and Germany to arbitrate with Venezuela. November, the Panama revolution.

1905—May 12, brought Russia and Japan to agree to discuss peace. August 29, the peace of Portsmouth.

1906—Roosevelt awarded the Nobel peace prize.

1918—January 6, death of Theodore Roosevelt, aged sixty.

At the cracking of a twig in the still depths of the Adirondack mountains Roosevelt turned to see a guide coming out of the woods with the unexpected news that McKinley's condition was worse. Although he hastened to Buffalo, the president had died 13 hours before the vice president arrived.

At the outset of Roosevelt's administration a fearful citizen begged the rough rider not to permit his fighting spirit to plunge the country into an international war. "What?" the president exclaimed. "A war, and I roared up here in the White House? Never!"

Many forgot the first half of the old motto that Roosevelt made his own. "Speak softly and carry a big stick." No man ever had a simpler faith in the efficacy of first "talking it over," then fashion, with an adversary, whether a senator or an ambassador.

The middle-aged German kaiser was the earliest to feel the "big stick" to see if it was only stuffed with straw. Germany and a Tory government of England were on the point of selling territory as a security for some claims.



Edith Carow Roosevelt.

against Venezuelan citizens, when Roosevelt succeeded in dissuading England from such a step, but he failed to induce Germany to arbitrate the matter. Thereupon he told the German ambassador that unless the Berlin government consented to arbitration in ten days, he would send Admiral Dewey to stop the Germans from landing in Venezuela. The ambassador protesting that the kaiser could not back down now, Roosevelt replied that he was not arguing with him but was simply telling him what would happen.

After waiting a week without an answer from Berlin, he told the ambassador that he was going to cut the limit to nine days and that unless Germany agreed in 48 hours to arbitrate, Dewey would sail. In 36 hours the ambassador came back with a message announcing that Germany consented.

In good time, Roosevelt employed the influence of his unique position before the world to bring to an end the Russo-Japanese war. Shrewdly choosing the right moment to step in, he appealed to the two belligerents with a common sense and a simple directness that a friend would use in bringing together two quarreling neighbors. Afterward he steered the peace conference at Portsmouth against its will steadily toward a peace of reconciliation, an impatient Russian declaring that his "steel wrist" hammered out a treaty that neither of the powers wanted at that time and that "the terrible American president—H. Strenuous—was capable of locking the conferees into a room and starving them into submission."

Instead of starting a war, the "big stick" stopped the only great war that broke out in the period of its sway.

While the Roosevelts were its tenants, the White House was an example and the center of the simple family life of America. . . . "not a second-rate palace," the president said, "but the home of a self-respecting American citizen." A few months after graduating at Harvard, Roosevelt married Miss Alice Hathaway Lee of Boston, whom he had met in his college days. This bride of his youth passed from life as her daughter—Mrs. Alice Roosevelt Longworth—entered it.

Nearly three years afterward he sailed from New York, directly following an unsuccessful campaign for mayor to marry a friend and neighbor of his childhood, Miss Edith Kermit Carow, who was sojourning in Europe.

Amateur Gardener Criticized. Jed Tunkins says an amateur gardener is usually something like a golf fan who is more interested in telling how good he is than in playing the game.—Washington Star.

WRIGHT SCHOOL

The Arcadia Farmers' club met with Mr. and Mrs. C. Hainline last Thursday. A good crowd was in attendance. Officers for the following year were elected as follows: President, C. F. Hainline; vice president, Mrs. Hector Smith; secretary, Mrs. Wesley Webb; treasurer, Mrs. John Fink. The next meeting will be with Mr. and Mrs. Giles Isham.

Mr. and Mrs. LaVern Bush entertained his mother and sister from Lansing last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Lentz were St. Louis callers last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Webb spent last week in Ohio called there to attend the funeral of the former's aunt.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Vancore of Pompano were callers in this neighborhood last Friday.

Giles Isham and Wesley Webb spent Tuesday in Ithaca.

Mr. and Mrs. Hector Smith entertained company from Saginaw last Thursday.

Clyde Webb spent Friday in Mt. Pleasant.

The party at the Eckert school house Friday evening was well attended and a fine time enjoyed. The College Glee Club furnished the music.

Master Maynard and Robert Johnson are sick with the chicken pox.

Little Bernard Rockafellow is on the sick list.

SOUTHEAST COE

Mr. and Mrs. Levi Burge were Sunday visitors at the home of E. Leonard.

Roy Bogels and family and L. J. Totten of St. Louis were Sunday visitors at the home of Tom Pethel in Coe.

John Spittler, a cousin of Mrs. Ella Leonard, and H. Kingscott of Lansing spent the week end here visiting with Mrs. Leonard and her aunt, Mrs. Spittler.

Pearl Leonard of Alma spent Tuesday and Wednesday of last week here, a guest of Ella Leonard.

There will be a Sunday school concert at the church Sunday evening, Feb. 27. Regular church services will be held in the morning in charge of Elder Kimberling, who expects to return home before the end of the week.

The Ladies' Aid Society will meet Thursday of next week for an all-day meeting in the church basement. Dinner at noon. Husbands of Aid members invited to dinner.

SCRIPTURE

Every wise woman buildeth her house; but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands.

He that walketh in his uprightness feareth the Lord; but he that is perverse in his ways despiseth him.

In the mouth of the foolish is a rod of pride; but the lips of the wise shall preserve them.

Where no oxen are, the crib is clean; but much increase is by the strength of the ox.

A faithful witness will not lie; but a false witness will utter lies.

A seer seeketh wisdom, and findeth it not; but knowledge is easy unto him that understandeth.

Go from the presence of a foolish man, when thou perceivest not in him the lips of knowledge.

NOTICE

I hereby give public notice that I have sold all my interest procured from Nick Frantson, in the DeLuxe Candy Co., and that I assume no responsibility for the conduct of the said business in any way.

John G. Barbas.

Effects of Constipation

Constipation causes a stoppage of the sewerage system of the body. The poisonous refuse matter that should be carried away is retained in the system and often poisons the blood and causes numerous disorders. No one can afford to neglect his bowels. A dose of Chamberlain's Tablets will afford relief. Avoid drastic cathartics as they take too much water out of the system and their use is likely to be followed by constipation.—85-4w

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Petroleum Industry Proves Value of Self-Government

"It took the excessive war-induced centralization of economic and industrial functions in the hands of government to dramatize the essential fallacy of trying to substitute the politician for men functionally fit for the job in hand."—Glenn Frank, Editor of the Century Magazine, in The Politics of Industry.

The clarity of Mr. Frank's reasoning was demonstrated by the efficiency of the petroleum industry during the war-time period.

Petroleum was the one basic industry which was left in the hands of men trained "for the job in hand" and their efficiency enabled the Allies to float to victory on a sea of oil.

The lessons learned during that period of stress have enabled the Standard Oil Company (Indiana) to increase its usefulness as a manufacturer of petroleum products.

The Standard Oil Company (Indiana) has learned that a minimum of political interference with economic processes is essential to this or any other highly specialized industry that it may continue to improve the service it renders.

The Standard Oil Company (Indiana) believes that the government of any business enterprise should come from within the industry, and that this government should be beneficial alike to capital, labor, management, and the public.

The Standard Oil Company (Indiana) is organized upon a broad base to bring about this desirable condition.

The Board of Directors, who are responsible to the stockholders for the management of the Company's affairs, acknowledge the social obligation which the Company has assumed, and which they interpret to mean the efficient refining and distribution of essential petroleum products of superior quality; to make these products available everywhere, and at prices which put them within reach of all.

To accomplish this essential task, the Standard Oil Company (Indiana) has continually broadened the base of its operations, intrusting the administration of its complex and highly specialized business to men of acknowledged authority, ability, and vision.

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